

# Partners...

A Newsletter for Partners and Providers of Early Detection Works  
Kansas Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening & Detection Program

Fall 2004

## Contents...

- Comprehensive Cancer Planning
- Kansas Tobacco Quitline
- Professional Ed Reminder
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- American Cancer Society Resources
- Partners Conference to Feature Native American Keynote
- Numbers of Women Screened by EDW

## Regional Nurses

### Northeast

Heidi Weicken, BSN  
785-573-6733

### North Central

Lynette Blomberg, RN  
785-452-6361

### South Central

Sherry Haworth, BSN  
316-660-7332

### Southeast

Vacant  
620-235-7136

### West

Shelly Nelson, BSN  
620-275-5302

## Early Detection Works

Toll-free Hotline  
1-877-277-1368

## Director's Message...

It's difficult to believe that summer, and another grant year, is now over. Thanks to each of our providers, nurses and others for submitting client forms in a timely manner this year, so that all bills could be paid by our grant deadlines.

As bills were submitted throughout the summer and early fall, we noticed that some of the explanation of benefits (EOB) from insurance companies were either submitted too late for insurance to pay, or not submitted at all for those women with insurance. Providing services to women with high, unmet deductibles is an option that we would like to continue – we know these women need and value the services. Since we are a grant funded program (with a finite budget) we would really appreciate having the EOB and client forms submitted as soon as possible. "Thank you" to those of you who have submitted your forms in a timely manner.

As many of you know, the Comprehensive Cancer Partnership has been meeting to develop a plan to reduce the burden of cancer in Kansas. The Partnership has completed their initial task of developing strategies and activities needed to reduce the burden of cancer with a focus on breast, cervical, prostate, colorectal, lung and skin cancers. Currently, we are in the process of drafting the plan based on the Partnership's recommendations with the plan scheduled to be presented in February 2005. We will be distributing the plan statewide, and all of our partners will be receiving a copy.

We are excited about this spring's annual conference, April 7-8, 2005, at the Hyatt in Wichita. The planning committees have met and this promises to be a very exciting and innovative conference. For the first time, the EDW program is partnering closely with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation to provide a conference of interest not only to partners and providers, but also to cancer survivors. Topics such as nutrition and fitness, cancer quackery, new technologies in screening and treatment, as well as clinical updates, program overview and clinical breast exam training will be offered. More information regarding registration and hotel reservations will be available in the coming weeks. Please mark your calendar today for April 7-8 for this year's conference!

*Janet Neff, Director  
Cancer Prevention and Control Program*

## Comprehensive Cancer Planning in Kansas

The Kansas Cancer Partnership, comprised of clinicians, university staff, partners and others, has determined the content of the Kansas Cancer Prevention and Control Plan to reduce the burden of cancer. The Partnership will meet again in November to provide comments prior to the printing of the document, which should be distributed in February 2005.

Efforts began about a year ago working through the continuum of care to address the burden of cancer. Work groups targeted four areas – prevention, screening and early detection, diagnosis and treatment, and survivorship and end of life. The groups researched a number of issues including major assets, barriers, and perception of the problem of cancer and strategies and actions to address the issues.

The four groups met throughout the spring and early summer to set goals, develop objectives and outline strategies to address the problem of cancer in six areas – breast, cervical, prostate, lung, colorectal and skin.

Cancer places a heavy burden on the state of Kansas, with more than 12,000 Kansans diagnosed with cancer each year and 5,400 that die from the disease. The cost of cancer also is an economic burden to citizens with more than \$1.6 billion spent each year in direct medical costs and lost productivity due to illness and death.

Many cancers are preventable by avoiding tobacco use, using sunscreen, eating a nutritious diet and leading a healthy lifestyle. Routine screening and early detection can also help save lives by finding cancer at its earliest stages when it is most treatable. The Kansas Cancer Control and Prevention plan will help the state focus its efforts and resources on reducing cancer incidence and death in the state. It is estimated that the plan will be published and distributed in Spring 2005.

*Pati O'Hara, Cancer Program Manager*

## Kansas Tobacco Quitline

The Kansas Tobacco Quitline is a free, confidential resource for those wishing to quit tobacco use.

Lung cancer is the number one cancer killer in Kansas, killing more Kansans than breast, prostate and colorectal cancer combined.\* Cigarette smoke is estimated to contain over 4000 chemical compounds, including 43 known carcinogens. The hopeful side of the story is that the lungs began to recover as soon as the person quits smoking.

Help in quitting tobacco use is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Quitline may be contacted either by telephone at 1-866-KAN-STOP or through the Web site [www.kanstop.org](http://www.kanstop.org).

*\*Kansas Cancer Registry, Mortality Data for 2002.*

## Professional Ed Reminder

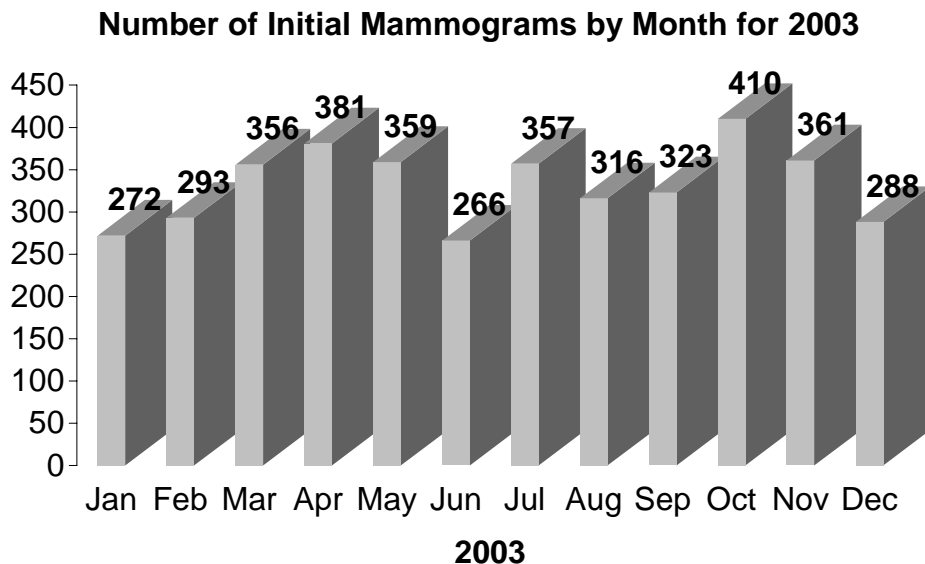
With the Bethesda 2001 Coding scheme, less emphasis has been placed on the importance of endocervical cells for Pap test adequacy. While the absence or presence of endocervical cells will continue to be reported using the Specimen Adequacy variable, “the consensus recommendation of Bethesda 2001 is that the absence of endocervical cells...does not require an early repeat Pap test.”\* The cytology report should include both Specimen Adequacy information, as well as an actual diagnostic category.

A six-month follow-up may be warranted in some situations, such as previous atypical Pap tests, inability to visualize the cervix, immunosuppression, or history of insufficient frequency of previous screening.

*Cindy Hasvold, R.N..*

*\*Bethesda 2001: Latest Recommendations for Pap Smear Reporting; PSA Consult, Volume V, No.3, March 31, 2002.*

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Mammogram Rates



*Does Breast Cancer Awareness month make a difference? It appears that it does, as more women are initially screened through Early Detection Works in October than in any other month of the year. Figures are also high for November, possibly reflecting appointments made as a result of Breast Cancer Awareness activities.*

### American Cancer Society Resources for Women with Breast Cancer

The American Cancer Society is the largest source of private, nonprofit cancer research funding in the United States. Research efforts are directed toward a cure, better treatments, and improved quality of life for cancer patients.

Closer to home, ACS provides an array of services for patients dealing with cancer. For women with breast cancer, Reach to Recovery pairs the newly diagnosed woman with a breast cancer survivor. Look Good, Feel Better helps women improve their appearance through help with makeup and hair. These programs are available primarily in the metropolitan areas, but wigs, turbans, and other head coverings can be mailed out to cancer patients in all areas of the state. There are no financial criteria for these services.

For cancer patients with limited income, ACS will provide a \$50 gasoline credit card, which must be used to pay for transportation to surgery, chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

Nutritional supplements are available to patients for whom this purchase would create a financial hardship. Again, the patient must be in ongoing treatment for cancer.

For breast cancer patients with no insurance or other means of payment, ACS will pay for prostheses and bras. Professional fitting is also available at no charge to the patient.

For information regarding these and other services, call the Topeka office at 1-800-359-1025 or the Wichita office at 1-800-478-4788.

#### **Providers: Please Note Referral Source!**

Please help increase the number of women who benefit from the Early Detection Works program. The "Intake and Visit Summary" form has a line for "Referral Source." As we learn more about how women hear about the program (mass media, a friend, etc.) we know better how to target our advertising efforts. This all depends on accurate information in those check boxes! Your help in this area is essential and very much appreciated.

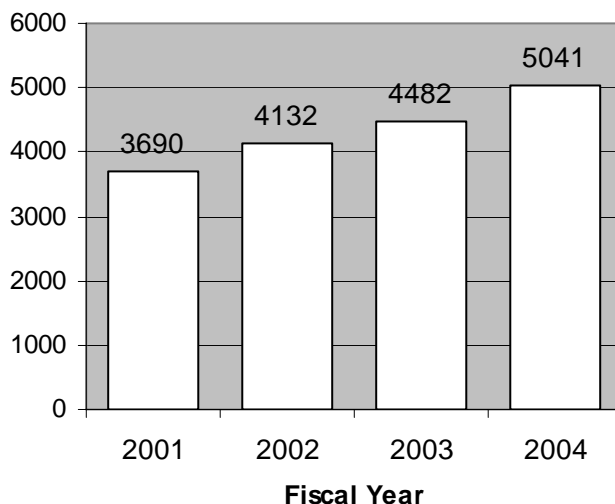
## Partners' Conference to Feature Native American Keynote Speaker

The 2005 Partners' Conference is being held in conjunction with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation to address issues of interest to breast cancer survivors as well as professionals. The conference will be held April 7 – 8, 2005, at the Wichita Hyatt Hotel. Linda Burhansstipanov, MSPH, DrPH, will present the keynote address.

Dr. Burhansstipanov (Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma) taught at universities for 18 years before working at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. At NIH, she developed the Native American Cancer Research Program at the National Cancer Institute. She is currently the Executive Director of Native American Cancer Research, a non-profit community-based corporation. Dr. Burhansstipanov is the principal investigator of several NIH grants and also serves on national advisory boards including the Intercultural Cancer Council and Mayo Clinic's "Spirit of E.A.G.L.E.S.."

Early Detection Works  
Office of Health Promotion  
Kansas Department of Health & Environment  
1000 SW Jackson Street, Suite 230  
Topeka, Kansas 66612 -1274  
264-32

## Numbers of Women Screened by Early Detection Works



*Each year a larger number of women in Kansas have utilized the services available through Early Detection Works. Figures shown are for the actual number of women served by the program; individuals may have received several services.*

*This newsletter is provided by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, prepared by the Cancer Prevention and Control Program, Office of Health Promotion, funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection and Screening Program, Cooperative Agreement CCU710968-07-2.*